THE

WEEKLY ENTERTAINER.

For MONDAY, June 9, 1806.

Present State of Manners and Fashions in France.

[From Mr. Wilkes's Encyclopædia Londinensis, Vol. VII. Article France.]

THAT *manners* take their prominent features from the state or condition of that government under whose example they move in society, appears in no part of the world so demonstratively obvious as in the metropolis of the French empire. Under the old monarchy, there were indeed vast numbers of the highest orders of nobility, who likewise filled the most dignified and sacred functions in the church; but to the disgrace of the government, few of them escaped the universal taint of immoral intercourse and unbounded dissipation. A few good and exemplary characters indeed there were; but, as was the case in Sodom and Gomorrah, not enough to save the state from the awful visitation of offended Heaven. Those few who were known and respected for their virtues, had no weight in regulating the manners of society. Though undistinguished by lofty situations, they were praised for an union of amiable qualities, in harmony with each other. An habitual decency in their discourse and in their conduct, ease of behaviour, propriety of deportment, taste in their attachments, and a sort of dignity which kept levity in check, were the qualities which adorned these few amiable men. But the severity of their manners was not in unison with the court; their virtues were too unfashionable to be imitated; none were held in consideration by the votaries of *bon ton*, but such as were distinguished by riches, high birth, and a large display of extravagance. In the latter part of the reign of Louis XVI. the fascinating queen of France, and the duke of Orleans, were cele-

brated for taking the lead: yet these elevated characters, while pursuing the same giddy career, most cordially hated each other, and were at open and vindictive warfare. All writers who have spoken of this inveterate hatred which existed between the queen and the duke d'Orleans, have ascribed it to despised love, whose pangs are not patiently endured. Some insist that the duke, enamoured of the charms of Antoinette, hazarded a declaration, which her majesty not only received with disdain, but threatened to inform the king of it, in case of a renewal of his addresses. Others affirm that the queen at one time, shewed that the duke was not indifferent to her, and that, on a hint being given to him to that effect, he replied: "Every one may be ambitious to please the queen, except myself. Our interests are too opposite for love ever to unite them." On this foundation is built the origin of the animosity which, in the end, brought both these great personages to the scaffold. Whatever may have been the motive which gave rise to it, certain it is that they never omitted any opportunity of persecuting each other. The queen had no difficulty in pourtraying the duke as a man addicted to the most profligate excesses, and in alienating from him the mind of the king; he, on his side, found it as easy, by means of surreptitious publications, to represent her as a woman given to illicit enjoyments; so that, long before the revolution, the character both of the queen and the duke were well known to the public; and their example tended not a little to increase the general dissoluteness of morals. The debaucheries of the one served as a model to all the young rakes of fashion; while the levity of the other was imitated by what were termed the *amiable* women of the capital.

Amidst this general defection however from virtuous habits, —elegant taste, and the exuberance of politeness, were reflected throughout the gay and splendid circles by the fascinating manners of the queen. Etiquette, with a view of dismissing the awkward stiffness of ceremony, is disguised in mixed company by a show of equalized attention and spontaneous good nature; yet seigniority and pre-eminence of rank are discriminated with as much precision as though all the ancient modes of adulation were in force. This improvement in the manners of society in France is admirably depicted by Madame de Stael, among the manuscripts of her father, the celebrated M. Necker, recently published. "These matters, it is observed, are now reduced to a system; but it is no where to be found in writing: and it is become gradually so fine and subtle, that it may be called "the legislation of *matters understood*;" a designation which is the more just, because, though no one claims a right, it is nevertheless most clear that each looks to a certain place as his due. It is the pride of a great lady,

lady, to allow it to be seen that she was acquainted with all these differences, but at the same time to conduct herself with delicacy, so as to give no one any just cause of complaint. A great lady, who holds a circle, has a fixed place; and her seat is of a particular make, though simple and commodious, in order that it may be supposed that she does not put herself in any degree out of her way when she sees company. A piece of embroidery lies before her: through which, when she employs herself with it, she passes her needle with a noble negligence. This occupation dispenses with the lady's rising when visitors enter her apartment; a compliment, which she pays only to princes of the blood, to foreign ladies of the first distinction, to generals who have just gained a battle, or to a minister high in favour. A particular manner is shewn to persons of an uncertain rank, which is to signify to them that they are countenanced: but, if they assume too much, an interrogation in a marked tone, terminating with a shrill accent, apprizes them of their presumption. More address is necessary among persons of nearly the same rank. Taste and feeling regulate the conduct of the mistress of a great house; and these are her guides in the distinctions which she makes in the midst of her saloon. Women of condition, women of quality, titled women, women of historic name, women of high personal birth, but united to a husband who is inferior to them, women who have raised themselves by their marriage, women who attract by play or suppers. A German may ascertain the heraldic claims of these persons: but to seize immediately the imperceptible differences, and to adapt the tone, forms, and manner, to them, is quite another matter: French dexterity, and extensive intercourse with the world, are alone equal to effect this. It is with self-love, which is most easily irritated, that all this dealing takes place; for which reason, the slightest fault is sure to be noticed. The same nicety and refinement regulate the conduct of individuals, with regard to the rank which they claim in society. These, the moment they have entered the saloon, have a manner of accosting others, of seating themselves, and of looking around them, which shew in what light they behold themselves as compared with others. They convey their meaning also by a sort of drawl or languor of the voice, and by the reserve or frankness which they assume; and when they apportion the respect to be shewn, they effect it by the varied mode of their reverence, which admits of endless gradations, from a slight movement of the shoulder to that noble and respectful homage which so few, even of the court ladies, know how to pay. The slow bend, the downcast eyes, the figure upright, the manner of resuming one's position, modestly regarding the accosted, and gracefully throwing the body back; all

this is more fine and delicate than any thing expressed by words can be, and is most expressive as a mark of respect.

" The passage from the drawing to the dining-room awakens a singular conflict between jarring claims to precedence. The men no longer give the hand to the women, as in former times; this usage, it is probable, grew obsolete as the system of vanities became more subtle; it was necessary to put the men out of the question, because they would inevitably introduce what was positive into the affair. Behold the women in a body approach the door of the drawing-room: observing their composed air, we should conclude that no idea of rivalship possessed their minds; while most probably it is the only one which engages their thoughts at that moment. Some, feigning utter inattention, are the first at the door; there, perceiving all at once that they are not followed, they express themselves surprized at their own forwardness, or burst out into a lough laugh: they retreat a little way at the same time. They are then told, " Come, ladies, walk on;" those who addressed them thus have recovered their advantage; for *walk on* is a sort of permission. The superiority is still more marked when they say, " Walk on, ladies, you are next the door," since the reason of the permission is stated. Malice is gratified by saying, " Come, madame la marechale, nobody will walk on before you." The marechale complies, and walks on first. Others then follow; while some dreading the conflict, remain behind; one drops her fan in order to have a pretence for retreating to pick it up; another takes a gentleman's arm, and slackens her pace in order to talk to him: and a third stops at a glass to adjust her hair; thus in this short march high claims are preferred, opposed, supported, discussed, and settled by signs intelligible only to adepts, and with little of the help of language."

Extracts from the Reports of the Committee for relieving the Distresses in Germany.

(Continued from Page 431.)

Translation of a Letter from a respectable Gentleman in Germany, dated January 4, 1806.

" I Was hardly ever more deeply affected by any thing, than by the remittance of such a considerable sum, for the relief of those who have been ruined by the late melancholy war. Many fervent sighs and supplications will ascend to the Father of Mankind for all those benefactors, that he may bless, protect and

and deliver them in the hour of danger and distress, and graciously impart to them that peace of God which passeth all understanding. Messrs. ——— have sent the 300l. to Messrs. ———, of ———, and they have sent me a bill of exchange, payable by Mr. ———, in ———. When I had informed this gentleman, who is a very excellent character, of the design of this money, he accepted the bill with tears of joy. In a few days I shall receive the money. My first care, and most earnest desire is, to distribute it in the best way. But as all human understanding is but perfect weakness, I applied for direction from above, that I might be guided in this, as in all other things. The same day, I received from a very respectable merchant in Ulm, a letter, representing the present distressed situation of Ulm, and its vicinity; at the same time requesting me to use all my influence in order to procure them some relief. The palatinate, and the electorate of Baden, have comparatively suffered nothing, as the French only marched through; but from Ulm, in Swabia, along the whole extent of the Danube to the borders of Hungary, also throughout Moravia and Bohemia, the most awful misery prevails.

"You will see by the printed letter from Ulm, that the whole mercantile body in that town have united in the establishment of a society for affording relief. But as I know their situation, being able only to give from one to five shillings, merely to satisfy the wants of the present moment, I will request the abovementioned gentleman, whom I personally know, and on whose integrity and prudence I may depend, to give me an account of the most worthy and industrious families among the most distressed, and carefully to inquire what are their particular wants. Such I intend to relieve. To some I will send corn-seed for sowing, to others a cow, to others an ox for tilling the ground. By such an assistance a whole family may again be enabled to earn their bread, whilst by a few shillings at a time, you only relieve the present necessity: you must give again and again, and when they have received as much as a cow would have cost, they are in the same state of beggary as at first.—This is the general outline of the plan upon which I intend to act. Mention this to the committee; I hope it will meet their approbation. As I have respectable connections in all the larger towns of Germany, I can the more easily perform this pleasing service for the poor.——Great God! how I thank thee for assigning to me this branch of beneficence. Means of my own I have not, and thou hast given me them from foreign parts. Impart me wisdom for this honourable commission!"

Translation

Translation and Extract of a Letter to a Gentleman in Norwich, from a respectable Merchant in Memmingen, dated January 8, 1806.

" Our city also sustained a very considerable loss in the late unhappy war. When the Austrians first arrived here, in endeavouring to fortify the city, they ruined many hundred acres of rich garden ground. Many families, which supported themselves by cultivating hops, lost their all. When the French came, our misery increased. For four days no house had less than six soldiers quartered upon them, most had from sixteen to twenty, and many even from fifty to sixty. Had they been satisfied with what our poor citizens could afford, it would have been tolerable—but I shall never forget their cruelty. Having an officer quartered upon me, I used to hear the cries and lamentations of the poor, whom these barbarians had driven from their own houses, because they were unable to supply them with delicacies for the gratification of their palate. The melancholy consequences of this was very manifest at Christmas. At this season it is customary for several of the patricians, and six merchant-houses, to give to every poor person that calls. This year, for the first time, many very decent citizens appeared among the number, entirely as beggars, so that the heart of every true patriot could not but bleed at the sight of them. Should it be possible for you to procure something from England, I would endeavour to obtain here an additional sum, in order to relieve as many as possible."

Extract of a Letter from the Right Rev. the Abbot of Loccum, to the Rev. William Kueper, dated Hanover, January 11, 1806.

" Our committee has met for the first time, and an address to our public is prepared, of which you shall have a copy in my next, together with some other communications.—O! my dear friend, you cannot imagine the distressed and ruined state our poor country is in. Our burthens increase every day—we scarcely began to breath again, after the main army of our oppressors had left us, when, what we never expected, a large Prussian army occupied our exhausted provinces, and consumed what little provisions were left us for the winter. Then followed the Russians and Swedes, who certainly are our friends, but cost us dear. And now we shall moreover provide again for the 4000 French troops in Hameln, where we are threatened with another Prussian army. What will become of us, having neither money, nor credit, nor provisions! Our country is already ruined for a century to come, and it will be ruined for ever if things go on in this manner a little longer. The dreadful effects of our public misfortunes are felt and to be seen

every where.—But no more of it. I know you will excuse these frequent expressions of sentiments, which are always present to my mind, and so much agitate it."

Translation of a Letter from E. F. H. Falcke, D. D. First Burgomaster in the City of Hanover, and President of the Administration of the Poor.

"Hanover, January 21, 1806.

"Yesterday I received your very welcome letter, which proved a sweet balm of consolation after a very laborious day in the service of my suffering brethren. Most readily I will comply with all your instructions respecting a proper distribution of the money, acting according to that rule of the apostle: 'It is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful.' Nearly thirty-two months we have now sighed under the burden of hostile, neutral, and friendly troops quartered upon us, whereby the physical strength of our country (which in itself is not rich) has been exhausted. But the most formidable enemy, which now threatens us, is famine, as the last harvest has quite failed; potatoes, vegetables, and fruits are now nearly consumed. May God have mercy upon us and help us! My office as first burgomaster and president of the general administration for the poor, which I have held these twenty-two years, gives me knowledge and experience of the most deserving objects of relief; whilst at the same time I feel the utmost cheerfulness to disperse that faithfully, with which you may be pleased to entrust me."

Translation of a Letter from the Right Rev. Abbot Salfeld, to the Rev. William Kueper, dated Hanover, January 17, 1806.

"I had wished, my dear friend, that a more detailed report of the distressed situation of the greater part of our countrymen might be forwarded to you by this day's post. But our committee having deemed it proper still to collect more facts, which will enable them to lay before you a true and striking picture of the whole, I will endeavour to give you the following outlines:

"Though single communities and individuals have suffered disproportionably these three years, yet there is scarcely any place in our country, that has not suffered in a hard manner; and where the inhabitants have not been reduced to want and poverty. Besides the many heavy contributions in money, and deliveries of provisions to fill the French magazines, the great number of people, horses, and waggons, daily put in requisition, for transporting the baggage, forage, or warlike stores, together with the continual enormous expences in feeding and clothing the

the French soldiers, quartered on them in great numbers, have exhausted both the country people and the inhabitants of the towns. In those villages where noblemen, or bailiffs, justices, or clergymen, who were obliged to provide for the French officers, did not reside, the communities themselves were forced to find every thing for them, especially for their table; which, for each officer, as they always wanted good wine, required every day an expence of two rix-dollars; so that many small communities had to make an additional sacrifice for the entertainment of the officers alone, from 120 to 200 rix-dollars a month; to which sum even those people that gain their bread by hard labour were obliged to contribute. The distress in which a great many of our countrymen have been plunged by such enormous expences, during a long period of thirty-two months of French extortion, is dreadful, and is increasing still. We want money, credit, and corn; and even the most indispensable necessaries of life can scarcely be procured for uncommon high prices: and yet, even under these circumstances, the country must provide again for that part of the French invaders left in Hamelen, after a large Prussian army, during eight long weeks, has diminished our provisions; and while so many other foreign troops, to the number of near 70,000 men, continue consuming them.

"Certainly, my friend, we have but too many reasons to fear that, perhaps before the beginning of next summer, and even sooner, a famine will spread over this unhappy country, if we are not relieved by extraordinary means. The harvest of 1804 proved so scanty, that in the middle of last summer, already all our magazines were exhausted; and so great and general then was the want of food, especially in the provinces of Gottengen and Grubenhag, that thousands of our fellow-subjects would not have been saved from starving, had not our deputation of the states succeeded, with the assistance of the French Marshal Bernadotte, in obtaining a temporary supply from foreign countries, at the most enormous prices. Last autumn, again, a vast quantity of vegetables, especially potatoes, turnips, and carrots, were destroyed by the frost setting in too early; and so scanty was the last harvest, in general, that it would not have been sufficient for our own wants, to bring us through the winter, even if so many thousands of foreign troops had not consumed most of it. In short, my dear friend, the adversities and calamities we have incessantly been struggling with these three years, and the miseries and dangers which still threaten and surround us, are great beyond description, and it certainly requires a firm and manly courage, and much Christian confidence, not to despair at the terrible sight of them.—Every where numbers of estates are to be sold, and their value of course has greatly diminished. In villages and cities, the

best situated and convenient houses are offered for any price. People of extended possessions feel happy to get money lent on high interest from foreign usurers. Many respectable persons, who formerly lived in abundance, people of every rank and description, have been under the necessity of pawning every thing, to pay the contributions, feed the French soldiery, and save their families from starving. Commerce and trade have been almost entirely destroyed, with many other useful branches of industry. Artists and professional men of every description want customers and employment. The funds for relieving the poor have decayed and diminished, while the number of those that live on alms have increased. The many charitable institutions, every where established to distribute Rumford soup and fuel, all fall short to provide for the most urgent wants of the distressed."

(To be continued.)

PARISIAN FASHIONS.

STRAW hats are in the highest degree of favour: they wear yellow straw hats without any ornament whatever, but a bunch of lilac or a ribbon of pink or white, which flows loosely. Hats of white chip are sometimes interwoven with silk—for example, a rim of chip, then one of silk or ribbon; this variation is pretty, and above all new. Such is the enormous front of a straw hat, that the two extremities of the edge can meet, and fasten under the chin; but the most fashionable of all are the poke (those English poke bonnets, that were formerly so much ridiculed by the French ladies), with huge square fronts, and tassels of exact proportion on either side: as these projecting fronts are so large, to prevent the wind from deranging them, sometimes they add, besides the parallel tassels, silk cord, crossed several times over the front from side to side, which sufficiently confines it.

For Half Dress.

A crape cap is sometimes worn, bordered all round with a wreath of large roses; at the opera, white and pink hats very small are worn, bordered with pearls, and ornamented with feathers. Every dress has a scarf to suit, but this scarf is not always made to serve for a sash as well; it is either tied in a knot at the side, or with two long ends. The sleeves are worn short and full, and composed of ribbon and muslin mixed.

Instead of a watch, the gentlemen wear a *fausse montre*, formed of a serpent, which bites its tail, which thus makes a circle. Sometimes there are four little serpents, whose tails are

contrived to tie in the form of a ring, while their breasts meet, and their heads are erect, which forms a broach, at present the most fashionable. Often, instead of a watch-chain, the dashing gentlemen wear a large twisted serpent, which holds within the pocket (instead of a watch), five little twisted serpents disposed in a circle.

They dance with pleasure the country dance, particularly the English, the Govotte tolerably, L'Allemande carelessly, but the Venetian is the dance most in vogue, and which fills both actors and spectators with enthusiasm.

ENGLISH FASHIONS *for the* PRESENT MONTH.

Full Dresses.

1. A Dress of white crape, embroidered down the front and round the train with gold or silver; the sleeves very short in front, and embroidered, to correspond with the dress; the bosom quite plain, with a small lace tucker; an under-dress of white sarsnet. White kid shoes and gloves. The hair dressed and ornamented with a gold comb.

2. A short dress of alternate stripes of blue or lilac crape, and white silk net; the bottom trimmed with embossed ribband; long sleeves of spider net: an under-dress of white satin trimmed also with embossed ribband. White kid shoes. The hair dressed with a tiara of steel bugles.

Walking Dresses.

1. A morning dress of white cambric muslin, made quite tight over the bosom, and buttoned down the front; the bottom trimmed with worked muslin; long sleeves, with work let in the top, to correspond with the bottom of the dress. A straw hat turned up in front.

2. A long dress of white muslin, with a mantle of slate-coloured sarsnet, trimmed all round with an Indian bordering. Slate-coloured shoes and stockings. A turban hat of straw, with a cantab crown.

Half Lengths.

1. The vintage hat of wrought straw, trimmed with lilac ribband, and ornamented with a flower.

2. A cap of spider net, trimmed with quillings of net round the front and crown, with a large bow of yellow ribband in the front.

3. A plain dress of white muslin, with a spencer of apple-blossom silk; the spencer made close, and quite tight over the bosom, crosses behind, and ties in front; the lapels and bottoms of

of the sleeves trimmed with quillings of white net. Silk bonnet to correspond with the spencer.

4. Hat of white silk, turned up in front with a large point, and trimmed with bows of white silk. White ostrich feathers crossing over the crown.

5. The Grassini cap of spider net, and silk ornamented with ribband.

OBSERVATIONS.

The prevailing colours are apple blossom, lavender, blue and yellow. The mob caps continue to be universally worn for morning dress, lined with coloured silk, and ornamented with flowers, or large bows of ribband. The long mantles are also much worn, both in silk and muslin; the muslin ones are bound with coloured ribband, and trimmed with lace. Feathers and flowers have again appeared; flowers are universally worn in full and undress.

Mr. Meigs's Letter on the Progress of Civilization and Manufactures among the Indian Tribes of North America.

To the EDITOR of the MONTHLY MAGAZINE.

SIR,

THE late arrival in this city of a deputation of Cherokee chiefs, having, from their appearance, excited considerable attention, has induced the following statement and observations relative to that nation.

To speak generally, the progress of the useful arts, a variety of manufactures, and pursuits of agriculture, is so great amongst these people, as ought effectually to remove prejudices that formerly existed against the red-men of America. A person travelling through the Cherokee country is agreeably surprised to find the cards and the spinning-wheel in use in almost every family. They raise the cotton and the indigo, spin and dye the yarn, and weave it into handsome cloth, with which they clothe their families in a decent and comfortable manner in the habits of the white people. There are more than one thousand spinning wheels, and upwards of one hundred looms, in the Cherokee nation, which are all in use with much industry. Amongst them are found silversmiths, blacksmiths, coopers, sadlers, tanners, shoemakers, and wheelwrights. Specimens of these manufactures mey be seen at the house of Morin, in this city. These mechanics are principally self-taught. Part of their tools are furnished by the public, and part by themselves. The plough and the hoe are in common use amongst them. By the assistance of some white men, they make large quanti-

ties of saltpetre and powder, with which their own people are supplied at a much cheaper rate than formerly; and some is carried out of their country to sell to the white people in Georgia and Tenesse. They have several grist-mills, and one saw-mill. So far have they changed the hunting-life for pursuits leading to civilization; and all this has been done since the year 1794, when there was not a pair of cards, spinning-wheel, or loom, or even a mechanic, in their nation. They have large stocks of black-cattle, horses, and other domestic animals: they make some butter, and cheese of a good quality is made in a number of families. Since agriculture and the domestic arts have become the principal object of pursuit, their population has evidently increased.

There are now seven schools in their country, where more than one hundred children are taught reading and writing, and some of them arithmetic. They are fast emerging from a state of barbarity to a state of improved and amiable society, and, under the countenance and fostering hand of the government of the united states, will become useful citizens, and will contribute no inconsiderable portion to the strength of our country, to which they are becoming every day more and more attached, from interest and affection. There has formerly existed an erroneous opinion, that the aborigines of this country could not be brought to a state of civilization. A great part of the Cherokees are now actually civilized. To fix the precise point where barbarity ceases, and civilization begins, is perhaps impossible. Many of these people have considerable information, and great decency of manners: these are strong marks of civilization. If in any society it be required that every individual be well informed, and decent in manners, before that society could be entitled to the appellation of civilized society, I do not know what considerable district of any country would be entitled to the appellation, The fact is, the Cherokees have made considerable advances in civilization, the consideration of which will afford much satisfaction to the government, to the administration, and to the friend of man every where. It has been some expence to the government, but it has saved more expence. It has almost destroyed their thirst for war, which, although it flattered the pride of the warrior, must, if persisted in, eventually terminate in their extinction. But in the revolution of events their destiny has been placed in the hands of the united states, whose magnanimity, it is presumed, will not let them perish.

I have several times visited the principal school, which is under the patronage of the government. The progress of the children in reading and writing is equal to that of any other children of their age. The order of the school, and decency of manners, excite in the minds of the spectator pleasing and affecting

affecting contemplation: it would wrest the barbarous from his ferocity, and evince to the mind, that it is not the colour of the skin that designates the savage.

RETURN. J. MEIGS.

City of Washington, December, 1805.

Description of the Manner of Fowling in St. Kilda.

By the REV. MR. BUCHANNAN.

THE art of the St. Kildians at catching fowls under the cloud of night is truly astonishing, and their success no less wonderful.

A man from that island told, in a company where I was present, that he was one of the four men that catched four ills or pens, being three hundred each, in the whole twelve hundred solan geese, in one night. That bird, after the hard toil of the day at fishing, without intermission, rising high in the air, to get a full sight of the fish that he marks out for his prey before he pounces upon it, and each time devouring it before he rises above the surface; becomes so fatigued at night, that he sleeps quite sound, in company with some hundreds, who mark out some particular spot in the face of the rocks, to which they repair at night, and think themselves secure under the protection of a centinel, who stands awake to watch their lives, and give the alarm, by *bir, bir,* in the time of danger, to awaken those under his guard.

The St. Kildians watch with great care on what part of the islands these birds are most likely to alight at night: and this they know by marking out on which side of the island the play of fish are, among which the geese are at work the whole day; because in that quarter they are ready to betake themselves to sleep in at night. And when they are fairly alighted, the fowlers repair to the place with their panniers, and ropes of thirty fathoms in length, to let them down with profound silence in their neighbourhood, to try their fortunes among the unwary throng.

The fowler, thus let down by one or more men, who hold the rope, lest he should fall over the impending rocks into the sea, with a white towel about his breast, calmly slides over the face of the rocks, 'till he has a full view of the centinel; then he gently moves along on his hands and feet, creeping very silently to the spot where the centinel stands on guard. If he cries *bir, bir,* the sign of an alarm, he stands back; but if he cries *grog, grog,* that of confidence, he advances without fear of giving an alarm, because the goose takes the fowler for one

of

of the straggling geese coming into the camp, and suffers him to advance.

The fowler very gently tickles one of his legs, which he lifts and places on the palm of his hand; he then as gently tickles the other, which in like manner is lifted and placed on the hand. He then no less artfully than insensibly moves the centinel near the first sleeping goose, which he pushes with his fingers; on which he awakes, and finding the centinel standing above him, he immediately falls a fighting him for his supposed insolence. This alarms the whole camp, and instead of flying off, they all begin to fight through the whole company; while, in the mean time, the common enemy, unsuspected, begins in good earnest to twist their necks, and never gives up 'till the whole are left dead on the spot.

This goose is almost as large as a land goose, of a white colour, except the tops of the wings, which are black, and the top of the head, which is yellow. The bill is long and sharp-pointed, extremely hard, and pierces an inch deep into wood. There is an act of parliament against the cruel manner of fastening herring on planks far out at sea, to catch these darting geese, and a severe penalty against the transgressors of this humane act. A well-supported fact concerning the strength of this fowl is told me by one of the tacksmen of this island. Once when sailing towards St. Kilda, and entering upon a field of sea-shore, the geese were busy darting among the fish, from on high, on each side of the barge on which he sat, and sailing fast before the wind, the barge passed over a fish so quickly, that a goose who had marked it out, and rushing so violently through the air, instead of the fish, on account of the unforeseen accident, darted his strong bill quite through the barge, and was actually carried back to another island dead, with his bill through the plank, as a testimony of the fact.

The nests of the solan geese, not to mention others, are so very close, that when one walks between them, the hatching fowls on either side, can always take hold of one's clothes; and, says Mr. Martin, will often sit still 'till they are attacked, rather than expose their eggs to be destroyed by the sea gulls. Their mates furnish them with food while they hatch.

The season for catching the old solan geese is before they begin to lay; about the middle of May is the time of gathering the eggs.

An ANECDOTE.

MR. G. an eminent barrister, at the last Maidstone assizes, observing a witness he was about to cross-examine particularly

ticularly thoughtful, addressed him thus:—"Come Mr. *Baconface*, what are are you thinking about;"—The countryman, pausing a little, scratched his head, and coolly replied—"I have been just a thinking, your honour, what a charming dish *my bacon-face* and *your calf's head* would surely make!"

Character and Anecdotes of the celebrated Naturalist, M. Buffon.

Written by M. Heraut de Sechelles, one of the many great and good Men who fell a Victim to the Tyranny of Robespierre.

A Noble figure, erect, and of a ruddy complexion, at seventy-eight; placid and serene, though suffering severely at the moment from the stone; his hair white as snow, and nicely dressed: this is one of his peculiarities—if, by accident, or in the course of his experiments, it is discomposed, he will have it dressed two or three times a day. His undress is superb;—a flowing robe de chambre of rich satin, yellow and white stripes, with blue flowers, after a large pattern.

His voice is strong, his articulation clear, his conversation interesting and agreeable, making some allowance for vanity.—This he takes no pains to conceal; and, to a person acquainted with his real merits, his egotism seems neither assuming, ill-timed, nor disgusting. I told him I was reading his Views of Nature—"You will find it well worth a perusal," he calmly replied.

Talking of his other works, he observed, "I improve every day in the art of composition: I have my productions often read to me: this occasionally furnishes improvement; but some of them cannot be improved."

In walking over his grounds at Montbart, we came to a monumental pillar, with an inscription highly flattering to Buffon. After fixing his eyes upon it for some time with evident emotions of delight, he observed to his son who had erected it, "This will do you credit with posterity." Passing on to the elaboratory, he said, "It was here that Rousseau stooped to kiss the threshold." I could not wholly agree with him in his definition of genius, That it was a greater aptitude to patience. Application is a great deal; but surely it is not every thing.

When a young man, he ordered a boy to call him regularly every morning at five. "If I appear unwilling to be roused, drag me out of bed," was his positive directions. His breakfast is a piece of bread and two glasses of wine. He retires to bed at nine o'clock.

With all his natural seriousness and apparent calmness of character, he loves to deal in double entendre and jokes. These

are sometimes so coarse, that the ladies are obliged to withdraw. He is an everlasting gossip; and will make his hairdresser and valet tell him all the scandal of the village.

Buffon loves to walk about and converse with the peasants, but at such times is never in dishabille. He is a stickler for dress, and blames his son for wearing a frock coat. Knowing his temper in this respect, I took care to appear in an embroidered waistcoat and laced clothes. He paid me great attention, and seemed much pleased with my visit, often calling on his son to observe, saying at the same time, "This is to be a gentleman."

He frequently repeated, that genius was invention produced by patience.

Speaking of the hours of production and composition, he used the following words: "These are the most luxurious and delightful moments of life:—moments, which have often enticed me to pass fourteen hours at my desk, in a state of transport. This gratification, more than glory, is my reward."

On my asking his advice with respect to the course I should pursue, he replied, "Read only original and respectable writers: but do not be eager for the society of learned men: it will lead you, for the most part, to disappointed hopes. When a young man, I gave way to this infatuation; but, at last, found a whole evening sacrificed, was paying too dearly for a flowery phrase, or a refined sentiment."

WHIMSICALITIES *of the late* SOAME JENYNS, Esq.

[From Cumberland's Memoirs.]

A Disagreement about a name or a date will mar the best story that was ever put together. Sir Joshua Reynolds luckily could not hear an interrupter of this sort: Johnson would not hear, or if he heard him, would not heed him; Soame Jenyns heard him, heeded him, set him right, and took up his tale, where he had left it, without any diminution of its humour, adding only a few more twists to his snuff-box, a few more taps upon the lid of it, with a preparatory grunt or two, the invariable forerunners of the amenity that was at the heels of them. He was the man, who bore his part in all societies with the most even temper and undisturbed hilarity of all the good companions whom I ever knew. He came into your house at the very moment you had put upon your card; he dressed himself to do your party honour in all the colours of the jay; his lace indeed had long since lost its lustre, but his coat had faithfully retained its cut, since the days when gentlemen wore embroidered figured velvets with short sleeves,

boot cuffs, and buckram skirts: as nature had cast him in the exact mould of an ill-made pair of stiff stays, he followed her so close in the fashion of his coat, that it was doubted if he did not wear them; because he had a protuberant wen just under his pole, he wore a wig that did not cover above half his head. His eyes were protruded like the eyes of the lobster, who wears them at the end of his feelers, and yet there was room between one of these and his nose for another wen that added nothing to his beauty; yet I heard this good man very innocently remark, when Gibbon published his history, that he wondered any body so ugly could write a book.

AN ANECDOTE.

DR. Perne, dean of Ely, one day happening to call a clergyman a fool, who was not totally undeserving of the title, but who resented the indignity so highly, that he threatened to complain to his diocesan, the bishop of Ely. "Do," says the doctor, "and he will *confirm* you."

Receipt for preventing the Flies from damaging the seedling Leaves of Turnips, Cabbages, and many other Vegetables.

MIX one ounce of flour of brimstone with three pounds of turnip seed, daily, for three days successively, in an earthen glazed pot, and keep it close covered, stirring it well together at each fresh addition, that the seed may be the more united by the sulphur; then sow it, as usual, on an acre of ground, and let the weather prove wet or dry, it will keep the fly off 'till the third or fourth seedling leaf is formed; by that time they will be somewhat bitter, and consequently very much out of danger of those little black flies, which, in summer time, may be often seen in swarms near the ground, searching for the young plants, and which in some seasons ruin thousands of acres. This remedy will not cost more than sixpence an acre, and may be used with equal success, mixed with the seeds of cabbages, savoys, cole, and many other vegetables.

A QUESTION, *by Captain P. Ninnis, Tavistock.*

REQUIRED the true content of a tree, the greater end being 46 inches girt, and the lesser 27½, and the length through the center 18 feet?

Answer, by W. D. of Bristol, to T. Gill's Anagram, inserted February 24.

THE foreign town which you try'd to display
Is OLITE, in Spain, I'd venture to say.

Answer, by H. Stoneman, of Exeter, to R. Perring's Charade, inserted March 31.

SALTRAM's the seat, in Devonshire,
Which your charade doth shew quite clear.

☞ Similar answers have been received from W. Cross, of Bristol; J. Fairweather, of Barson, near Kingsbridge; R. Gidley, jun. of Dean Prior; J. S. of Exeter; H. Glasson, of Praze; T. Coombe, of St. German's; S. C. Moore, of Horswell House; Eliza; and W. Pollard, of Egloshayle.

Answer, by S. Laurence, of Sidmouth, to W. D.'s Rebus, inserted April 7.

THE initials join'd, show you allude,
To your greatest pleasure, SOLITUDE.

☞ We have received similar answers from W. Cross, of Bristol; Henry Stoneman, of Exeter; and J. Gidley, jun. of Dean Prior.

A REBUS, *by T. Rutger, of Clowance.*

A Preposition, gents. unfold,
Which if I'm right must twice be told;
And when a pronoun's fix'd between,
An useful plant you'll find I ween.

A CHARADE, *by Captain P. Ninnis, of Tavistock.*

A Number first select I pray;
A glitt'ring substance next pourtray:
In yonder field my next is found,
In great profusion spread around.

A CHARADE, *by T. Scadding, of Wellington.*

WHEN my first doth approach all nature looks gay,
The lark sings her song, the lambs skip and play;
In my second I love with my Mary to roam,
Where sweet Philomel sings, and calls it her home:
My whole is in Somerset, very complete,
It lies near a town, 'tis a gentleman's seat.

A CHARADE, *by S. C. Moore, of Horswell-House.*

WHEN Phœbus, the bright god of day,
Withdraws from us his genial ray,
Then is my first in plenty seen,
If all is tranquil and serene.

Explore old Neptune's wide domain,
One of his tribes you will obtain:
These parts, connected right and true,
My plumy whole you'll bring to view.

POETRY.

For the WEEKLY ENTERTAINER.

Lines occasioned by a distant Prospect of my native Place.

By WILLIAM MANN.

DEAR native scenes! which, from this distant height,
I view, transported with sincere delight;
Oh! while ye faintly glow with charms refin'd,
" Sweet recollection brings past joys to mind;"
Joys which I've tasted 'mid your fond retreats,
When pleasure smil'd, and love bestow'd her sweets,
How oft have I, in childhood's halcyon reign,
Rov'd where yon hills o'erlook the humble plain!
How oft, amidst yon blooming vales I've stray'd
With thee, contentment, peace-inspiring maid!
While some fond object e'er my soul possest,
A childish gambol, or a songster's nest;
No care molested, and no fear controul'd,
Each new-born day with new-born pleasures roll'd.
Thrice happy state! from all corruption free,
How blest my days with innocence and thee!

Youth's glowing season likewise had its share
Of heart-felt bliss, and pure enjoyment there;
Free from the snares of pride and glitt'ring wealth,
Mine were contentment, peace, and roseate health;
Transcendant blessings! whence those comforts flow
Which wealth can't purchase, nor e'en kings bestow;
Blest with a friend, and with Amanda blest,
No lofty wishes e'er disturb'd my breast;
Days, months, and years, in sweet succession flew,
Each change renewing did my joys renew;
For ever pleas'd amid those scenes t' improve
The charms of friendship, and the sweets of love.

O Ashburton! my dear, my native place,
Replete with charms, and fraught with every grace;
Delightful spot! where commerce loves to reign,
And industry presents a chearful train;
Where heav'n-born charity poor want relieves,
And in return its gratitude receives.
Long may kind Heaven thy happiness increase,
And bless thee with prosperity and peace!

Where'er I roam, whene'er strange prospects rise,
To thee, sweet spot! my roving fancy flies;
Flies, and with rapture hails that distant day,
Which brings me to my love, to kindred friends, and thee.

The POPLAR.

NO watch-dog disturb'd the calm season of rest,
And the day-beams were faintly the mountain adorning;
The night-dew still hung on the eglantine's breast,
And the shrill cock first broke the sweet silence of morning.

To

To the haunts of his childhood, the scenes of his sport,
A wanderer came in the stillnes of sorrow;
The magic of life's early vision to court,
And the sweetest of hours from remembrance to borrow.

But the field of his culture was dreary and wild,
And drear were the bow'rs where the rose once was blowing;
The dark weed had grown where the garden had smil'd,
And a wilderness spread where late beauty was glowing.

Yet one poplar surviv'd, and was lofty and fair,
'Twas the pride of his youth, when its sun rose enchanting;
And affection had treasur'd his memory there,
And had hallow'd his name on the tree of his planting.

Unknown was the hand that thus witness'd its truth,
Unknown was the heart with affection thus beaming;
But the wanderer thought on the friend of his youth,
And his spirit was blest, tho' his tear-drops were streaming.

Thou flow'r of affection! entwining the heart,
To deck the drear scenes of our wanderings given;
Thy balm to our grief can its healing impart,
And thy blossoms of light caught their beauty from heav'n.

For the WEEKLY ENTERTAINER.

REFLECTIONS *on the* PRESENT WAR.

Written in a Garden addressed to Miss ***.

ACCEPT, sweet maid! this tributary song,
To worth like thine superior strains belong.
Feign would my feeble muse attempt thy praise,
And sound thy virtues in melodious lays.
Oh! could my numbers musically glide,
Like the soft stream that wanders by my side,
To thee I'd dedicate my well-tun'd verse,
And in high strains Britannia's fame rehearse;
Her godlike sons attend at glory's call,
Bravely to fight, to conquer, or to fall.
Methinks I hear the trumpet sound for war,
View mighty Mars ascend his glittering car,
Prepare then wreaths, in triumph to display
On Albion's sons the glory of the day.
In days of old the spear and lance we view,
And from nerv'd arms th' unerring jav'lins flew;
From rank to rank the neighing coursers tore
Their haughty chiefs, to fight the deeds of yore.
The glittering helmets, and the spear to wield,
While desp'rate carnage mark'd th' ensanguin'd field.
Here let imagination cease to glow
With scenes of ancient, or of modern woe.
Oh may celestial peace her wings expand,
And smile triumphant o'er this favour'd land!
Defend our rights, our liberty, and laws,
Or bravely perish in the glorious cause!

Exeter, May, 1806.

LORD NELSON.

"LET no funeral dirges rise
"Around my Nelson's trophied bier,"
Cried glory, bending from her skies—
"The hero lives immortal here."